

Comment Lightsquared partition 11-109

Dear FCC,

I am a user of GPS for navigation on my vessel operating in costal and inland waters in New England, and south along the East coast hundreds of days a year. GPS is vital for the safe operation of the vessel. In the past we also relied on LORAN C as a backup navigation system. Foolishly, LORAN has been shut down by the government, leaving no alternate system to GPS. It is vital that GPS system is kept at the highest level of operation to provide navigation information to allow me to safely operate my vessel during all weather conditions. Visibility in my areas of operation can often degrade to 0.00 feet and remain there for hours. Radar cannot provide safe close in navigation (200 feet or less). Any interference that causes a less than perfect signal is a threat to my vessel and the lives of those onboard. One need only look to the cruise ship in the news recently lying on its side with lives lost and millions in property and environmental damage to understand what a few feet on the wrong side of a navigation hazard can create.

The Lightsquared partition should be considered with the criteria above taken into consideration. There are alternatives for the services Lightsquared plans to provide. There are no alternatives to the GPS system as it now exists. Causing degradation of the system puts lives and property in jeopardy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Gary L. Irving